

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated April 9, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Applicants note that only claims 1-21 appear to have been examined. Applicants filed a preliminary amendment on August 21, 2001 adding claims 22-35. Applicants respectfully request that claims 22-35 be examined on the merits and also request that the next office action be non-final to allow Applicants the full opportunity to prosecute claims 22-35. Applicants herewith provide a copy of the preliminary amendment, as well as a copy of the date-stamped postcard evidencing timely filing of claims 22-35. Thus, Applicants submit that claims 1-35 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the indication of allowable subject matter of claims 3 and 5-7.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4, 8, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,748,293 to Kikuchi (hereinafter "Kikuchi"). Claims 10-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,917,158 to Takao (hereinafter "Takao"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

The rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 8, and 9 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, and 9 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "a body . . . and at least one recess defined in the body." None of the cited references, including Kikuchi, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. The structure of claim 1 of the present invention is different from the Kikuchi structure in that the recess according to the present claims in that the locking hole 10 cited by the Examiner is not formed in the body of the flexible cable of Kikuchi. Moreover, the locking hole 10 is for receiving a screw and does not function as a recess in the body of a flexible printed circuit film, as recited by at least claim 1 of the present application.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and claims 2, 4, 8 and 9, which depend from claim 1, are allowable over the cited references.

The rejection of claims 10-21 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 10-21 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, “a body having a first portion and a second portion, the first portion intersecting the second portion to form a corner portion, the corner portion having an inner vertex and an outer vertex.” None of the cited references, including Takao, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. The Office Action attempts to cite a “U” shaped cut-out as being a “corner,” as recited by claim 10. Calling a “U” cut out a “corner” is completely contrary to the use of the word “corner” in the present specification and the word’s ordinary meaning. Moreover, the Office Action neglects to address the recited “inner vertex” and “outer vertex.” Because at least these features are absent from cited references, Applicants submit that Takao fails to anticipate the present claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 10 and claims 11-21, which depend from claim 10, are allowable over the cited references.


Applicants believe the foregoing remarks place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: September 2, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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